

Congressman Harry Teague Encourages Small and Rural Law Enforcement Agencies to Apply for CHRP Funding

Washington, DC-Today Congressman Harry Teague sent a letter to local law enforcement agencies to let them know about \$1 billion in funding available nationwide under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) through the Recovery Act. The CHRP is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. The letter to southern New Mexico's law enforcement agencies is part of an ongoing effort by Congressman Teague to make sure that small and rural communities across his district have the resources and information they need to get their fair share of the funds made available by the Recovery Act.

"The COPS Hiring Recovery Program grants will create and save jobs while making our communities safer," said Congressman Harry Teague. "Local law enforcement agencies have been underfunded for too long. By getting our small and rural communities the resources and information they need to apply, we are making sure they are getting their fair share of this critical funding."

Full Text of the letter:

March 16, 2009

Dear Friend:

As you are aware, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included \$1 billion for the COPS hiring grant program. I'd like to announce that beginning today the solicitation for that program - the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) - is open on-line at www.cops.usdoj.gov. In addition to the application, the COPS website also has a number of supporting documents and information about CHRP that may be of interest to you and your constituents, including a fact sheet, FAQs, a podcast, and an application guide.

Highlights from the CHRP include:

- CHRP grant solicitation opens March 16, 2009 and closes April 14, 2009.
- CHRP is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts.
- Up to \$1 billion in grant funding will be available for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers.
- There is no local match requirement for CHRP, but grant funding will be based on current entry-level salary and benefits packages and therefore any additional costs for higher salaries or benefits for particular individuals hired will be the responsibility of the grantee agency.
- CHRP grants will provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for 3 years (36 months) for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts.
*In addition, there is no cap on the number of positions an agency may request, but awards will be limited to available funding. Please be mindful of the initial 3-year grant period and your agency's ability to fill the officer positions awarded, while following your agency's established hiring policies and procedures.
- At the conclusion of federal funding, grantees must retain all sworn officer positions awarded under the CHRP grant. The retained CHRP-funded position(s) should be added to the grantees law enforcement budget with state and/or local funds, over and above the number of locally-funded positions that would have existed in the absence of the grant.

If you have any questions, please go to www.cops.usdoj.gov for more information about the

COPS Office and the COPS Hiring Recovery Program. If you have any additional questions, please call 1-800-421-6770.

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